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Environmental Protection
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Office of Public Affairs
Region 5
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Illinois Indiana
Michigan
Minnesota
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Reclamation Oil Company Superfund Site Status of Activities

**Detroit, Michigan
March 2000**

Introduction

This fact sheet summarizes recent and future activities at the Reclamation Oil Company site, at 6472 Selkirk Street, Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. The 1-acre site is in a mixed residential and industrial area. Cleanup activities address the removal of hazardous contamination that resulted from the storage and distribution of chemicals that took place at the site from the 1920s to the mid 1990s.

Site Background

On March 1, 1999, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) requested the assistance of United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in controlling hazardous conditions at the abandoned site.

A site investigation was conducted in April 1999, to identify the types of hazardous contamination present at the site. During the investigation, U.S. EPA confirmed the presence of approximately 56 aboveground storage tanks (ASTs), 32 underground storage tanks (USTs), 850 55-gallon drums, 200 5-gallon containers, more than 500 small containers (glass, plastic and metal), and 300 bagged containers. The perimeter fence had several large openings, making the site easily accessible to trespassers.

Due to the nature of the site, the removal activities were broken down into two phases. Phase I included the removal of all drums, chemical containers, aboveground storage tanks and their contents. Phase II removal activities include removing the contents of the underground storage tanks, excavating and removing the tanks, cleaning and cutting up the tanks, and removing impacted soils, as necessary.

Aboveground Storage Tanks (ASTs)

The aboveground storage tanks (ASTs) varied in size, construction, and location across the site. Most of the ASTs were constructed out of steel and fiberglass, and ranged in size from approximately 5,000 to 25,000-gallon capacities. Approximately 12 ASTs composed of fiberglass were identified inside the processing building, and ranged in size from 5,000 to 15,000-gallon capacities. To date, 36 ASTs have been emptied and approximately 180,000 gallons of waste has been disposed of off site. All ASTs were cleaned, cut up using shears, and the scrap steel was recycled at local facilities.

Outside the processing building, eight steel 25,000-gallon ASTs were located within a concrete secondary spill containment system filled with rainwater and a brown colored liquid. The

secondary spill containment system surrounding these ASTs was not structurally sound and was leaking. In addition, two other ASTs located adjacent to the processing building were leaking a chlorinated industrial waste onto the street and into the stormwater system. The contents of the ASTs were sent off site for fuel blending.

Underground Storage Tanks (USTs)

Underground storage tanks (USTs) were identified by the presence of holes designed to pour liquids into tanks for storage and by visible vent pipes. Most of the caps to these holes were missing and the vent pipes had been cut off. Areas of overspill and stained concrete were observed around the uncapped holes. None of the USTs appeared to be in compliance with State laws established by MDEQ for underground storage tanks.

A significant number of the USTs were located beneath the processing building. In order to access these USTs, the processing building was demolished in January 2000. After establishing access to the USTs, their contents were pumped into tankers for off-site disposal. The USTs were removed from the ground, cleaned and sheared. The scrap steel is being recycled at local facilities.

Drums and Small Containers

More than 850 full to partially full 55-gallon drums and/or containers were found on the site. Most of the drums and containers were labeled. The labels indicated the presence of corrosives, flammables, oxidizers, organics and oils. Drums that were found inside and outside the building were in very poor condition. Many of these drums were leaking their contents onto the ground and floors of the facility. Six 55-gallon drums were leaking a white, corrosive material into Selkirk Street. Analysis of samples collected from these leaking drums revealed characteristics for arsenic and selenium toxicities.

Approximately 500 5-gallon and smaller containers were found and removed from the facility's office.

Current Situation

As of today, Phase I removal activities have been completed. Phase II removal activities are ongoing. U.S. EPA continues to remove the contents of the USTs, clean residue from the interior of the USTs, and shear the USTs. To date, approximately 100,000 gallons of hazardous waste liquid from the USTs has been disposed, including chromium, lead, tetrachloroethylene, and trichloroethylene. Security is being provided 24 hours a day to control site access. An air monitoring program has been ongoing to ensure that volatile organic compounds are not traveling off site.

Next Steps

U.S. EPA will continue disposing of the contents of the USTs, and contaminated soils as necessary. The security and the air monitoring program will continue at the site.

A public informational meeting will be held to talk to the community about site activities. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23, 2000, at Cooper Elementary School, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Cooper Elementary School is located at 6836 Georgia Avenue.

For Additional Information

If you would like additional information about the Reclamation Oil Company site, please contact the following representatives:

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U.S. EPA homepage: <http://www.epa.gov>

U.S. EPA Region 5 Superfund homepage: <http://www.epa.gov/region5/superfund/home.html>

Files about the Reclamation Oil site are available for review at the local Information Repository. To obtain additional information on this site and about the Superfund program, you may consult U.S. EPA's Information Repository, established at:

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